

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of reducing the risk of glaucoma development in a patient comprising administering to said patient a compound that inhibits the hydroxymethylglutaryl-coenzyme A (HMG-CoA) reductase-catalyzed transformation of HMG-CoA to mevalonic acid, wherein said compound is administered in an amount sufficient to effect said reduction.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein said compound is a statin.

3. The method according to claim 2 wherein said statin is selected from the group consisting of mevastatin, lovastatin, pravastatin, velostatin, simvastatin, fluvastatin, cerivastatin, dalvastatin, fluindostatin, nivastatin and atorvastatin, and prodrugs thereof.

4. The method according to claim 3 wherein said statin is selected from the group consisting of lovastatin, simvastatin, fluvastatin, atorvastatin, cerivastatin and nivastatin.

5. The method according to claim 1 wherein said compound is administered orally.

6. The method according to claim 1 wherein said compound is administered directly to the eyes of said patient.

7. The method according to claim 1 further comprising administering to said patient an agent selected from the group consisting of a β -adrenergic blocking agent, carbonic anhydrase inhibitor, miotic, sympathomimetic and prostaglandin agonist.

8. The method according to claim 1 further comprising administering to said patient a selective EP₄ receptor agonist or prodrug thereof.

9. A method of treating or inhibiting the progression of glaucoma comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound that inhibits the HMG-CoA reductase-catalyzed transformation of HMG-CoA to mevalonic acid, wherein said compound is administered in an amount sufficient to effect said treatment or inhibition.

10. The method according to claim 9 wherein said compound is a statin.

11. The method according to claim 10 wherein said statin is selected from the group consisting of mevastatin, lovastatin, pravastatin, velostatin, simvastatin, fluvastatin, cerivastatin, dalvastatin,

fluindostatin, nivistatin and atorvastatin, and prodrugs thereof.

12. The method according to claim 11 wherein said statin is selected from the group consisting of lovastatin, simvastin, fluvastatin, atorvastatin, cerivastatin and nivistatin.

13. The method according to claim 9 wherein said compound is administered orally.

14. The method according to claim 9 wherein said compound is administered directly to the eyes of said patient.

15. The method according to claim 9 further comprising administering to said patient an agent selected from the group consisting of a β -adrenergic blocking agent, carbonic anhydrase inhibitor, miotic, sympathomimetic and prostaglandin agonist.

16. The method according to claim 9 further comprising administering to said patient a selective EP₄ receptor agonist or prodrug thereof.

17. A composition comprising a compound that inhibits the HMG-CoA reductase-catalyzed transformation of HMB-CoA to mevalonic acid and an agent selected from the group consisting of a

β -adrenergic blocking agent, carbonic anhydrase inhibitor, miotic, sympathomimetic and prostaglandin agonist.

18. A container means comprising an eye dropper wherein said container means has disposed therewithin a solution or suspension of a compound that inhibits the HMB-CoA reductase-catalyzed transformation of HMG-CoA to mevalonic acid.

19. A method of identifying compounds that reduce the risk of glaucoma development in a patient comprising screening said compounds for the ability to inhibit the HMB-CoA reductase-catalyzed transformation of HMB-CoA to mevalonic acid, wherein a compound that effects said inhibition is a compound that can reduce said risk.

20. A method of identifying compounds that can be used to treat or inhibit the progression of glaucoma in a patient comprising screening said compounds for the ability to inhibit the HMG-CoA reductase-catalyzed transformation of HMG-CoA to mevalonic acid, wherein a compound that effects said inhibition is a compound that can be used to treat or inhibit the progression of glaucoma.